



# Professional Links

CONNECTING REFUGEES  
TO EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS



## CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SOMEONE FROM A REFUGEE BACKGROUND GAIN MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT?

One of the greatest challenges facing newly arrived refugee and humanitarian entrants in Australia is finding a job. Yet employment is critical to helping people establish life in a new country.

The 'PROFESSIONAL LINKS' Employment Mentoring Project enhances the employability of refugees by linking them with a mentor who works in a profession or industry they hope to enter here in Australia.

One-on-one mentoring ensures a refugee's entry to the Australian workforce is easier to navigate and more welcoming.

#### HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

It connects refugees to employment pathways by:

- Providing them with a volunteer mentor for a minimum of twelve months, giving one-on-one support and help to establish professional networks
- Linking them to potential employment opportunities through work place visits and work experience
- Offering employment skills guidance
- Providing Australian job market advice

#### WHO CAN BE A MENTOR?

We welcome anyone based in Sydney who is currently working for Business, Community or Government OR Self-employed OR Retired. Once your application has been approved we provide you with a 2 hour mentoring induction before you are matched with your mentee. This makes certain you are clear about the process, the commitment and the support mechanisms we have in place for you and your mentee.

#### WHAT DOES A MENTOR DO?

- You meet with your mentee for an hour every two weeks for a minimum of twelve months
- You will help them develop a practical and achievable career plan
- You will assist them with the job seeking process and prepare them for the workplace
- You may facilitate work place visits or work experience
- Once your mentee gains employment you will provide ongoing guidance and support

Most importantly you will LISTEN to your mentee and provide a valuable sounding board as they negotiate finding work in Australia. You are not expected to provide all the answers but by fostering a sense of confidence and connection the support you give your mentee will be invaluable.

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED? For more information contact your local office:**

Surry Hills (Inner Sydney region) Ph (02) 9282 9333 Fax (02) 9281 6800

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